
If you believe you are eligible to vote and encounter difficulty registering, please contact the Office of Elections of the Hawaii Secretary of State:

Office of Elections
802 Lehua Avenue
Pearl City, HI 96782
(808) 453-VOTE (voice)
Neighbor Islands: (800) 442-VOTE
www.state.hi.us/elections

If the Hawaii Secretary of State is unable to help you, or to report a problem, contact:

U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Voting Section, Rm. 7254 - NWB
Washington, D.C. 20530
(202) 307-2767 (voice)
(800) 253-3931 (toll-free)
(202) 307-3961 (fax)
www.usdoj.gov/crt

This pamphlet is provided for informational purposes only, as an aid to further inquiry. The laws in many states are revised frequently, and may have changed since this pamphlet was issued. It is your responsibility to determine whether you are lawfully eligible to vote, and criminal penalties can result from voting when ineligible or making false statements on a registration form.

Issued December, 2000

U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division



Restoring Your Right to Vote



The right to vote is an important civil right in a democracy as well as a civic responsibility, and yet many persons who have been convicted of a crime do not know whether they are eligible to vote. For both federal and state elections, the right to vote is controlled by the law of the state in which you live. Some states restrict the right to vote for persons who have been convicted of a crime. This pamphlet is intended to help you determine whether you are eligible to vote in the state in which you live, and if so, what steps you must take to be permitted to vote.

What law governs whether my felony conviction limits my right to vote?

The impact of a criminal conviction on the right to vote varies widely from state to state. Whether you can vote after being convicted of a crime is determined by the state in which you live, not the state in which you were convicted.

Can I vote while I'm incarcerated in Hawaii?

If you are a resident of Hawaii, you may not vote while incarcerated as a result of a felony conviction. If you are a resident of another state who is temporarily incarcerated in Hawaii, you may be able to vote by absentee ballot in your home state. You need to consult the law of your home state regarding both criminal convictions and absentee ballots to see if this is a possibility.

I have been released from incarceration. How do I restore my right to vote?

In Hawaii, the right to vote is automatically restored upon lawful release from incarceration regardless of whether the person has been placed on probation or parole or given a suspended sentence. In order to vote, you simply must register.

What if my conviction was for a federal crime?

Hawaii applies the same rules whether you were convicted of a federal or a state crime.

What if I was convicted in another state?

The same rules apply for Hawaii voters even if the conviction occurred in another state.

What happens if I move to another state?

If you move to another state, your right to vote will be controlled by the laws of that state.

What are Hawaii's other voter registration requirements?

To register in Hawaii, you must be

- a citizen of the United States of America
- a legal resident of Hawaii
- at least 16 years of age. Although pre-registration is allowed at age 16, you must be 18 years old by election day to vote.

When do I need to register to vote?

To participate in an election, a qualified voter must be properly registered no later than 30 days before the election.

Where do I go to register?

Registration is available at many places in Hawaii, including:

- County Clerk's offices
- City Hall
- State service agencies
- Many other public buildings

Completing a *Wikiwiki* registration form and mailing it directly to the Office of the City or County Clerk allows a person to register to vote without having to appear in person before a deputy registrar at a government office or at a designated voter registration location. *Wikiwiki* voter registration forms are available at many places in Hawaii, including:

- GTE Hawaiian Tel Everything Pages
- All public libraries
- All U.S. post offices
- Office of the City/County Clerk
- Satellite city hall locations
- Most state agencies
- Online at www.state.hi.us/elections
- State of Hawaii Tax Booklet insert